Patricia Stephenson: We, uh, experimented quite a lot with landscaping lighting. And, um, really for -- very inexpensively, we switched to solar-powered outdoor path lights and security lights. This is how easy it is to install these things. Turn it on, place it where you want it, you're done. As you can see, we have beautiful shade cover here in this magnificent American beech up here, which we absolutely love. It's a -- it's a considerable amount of air conditioning in the summertime.

What it also means, though, is that we're not able to have a very efficient solar-powered system for the house. Um, but we can do a little bit here and there, just like with the path lights. We have this, um, uh, motion detector security light that's run on this, uh, little PB up here, that is every bit as good, um, as my, uh, former hard-wired, uh, security light. But it's, uh, run on solar power.

I would highly recommend switching to solar. It's also a wonderful security thing, because if the power goes off, you still have your lights. We had, uh, an incident. Someone, um, about 4:00 in the morning, rammed into, um, a telephone pole, a power pole, and the lights went out in the neighborhood. And my neighbors were -- we were all out in the street, trying to figure out what was going on and if anyone was hurt and then, you know, sort of milling about. And they said, "Well, how come you still have power and we don't?" And I said, "It's solar."

So many contraptions these days and gadgets, electronic, uh, devices, that all pull energy. If it has a little black box on it, uh, uh, that plugs into the wall, that's drawing energy all the time. And likewise your television, your VCR, your computers, any peripherals on your computers. Even when they're off, they're not really off. So, one of the things that we've done in our house is to plug everything into a power strip, and then, um, the power strip can shut off at the floor or at the wall.

You leave all these appliances on, even though, you know, everybody thinks, oh, it only draws a little bit of energy. In fact, a little bit here, a little bit here, a little bit here, a little bit here, pretty soon you're leaving a 60-watt light bulb on 24 hours a day. So, who would do that? The other thing that's very important is the microwave. We all have

microwaves in our houses, and, um, they have these nice little clocks on the front that are on 24/7.

Well, I didn't need a clock on my microwave on all the time. You know, it was one of those aha moments that I -- I thought, well, how about if I noodle around on this and see if I can shut it off. Sure enough, there's a way to do that. So, um, now what you will see when you walk around -- this radio is unplugged, switched off at the wall. The microwave in the kitchen is off. You don't see an alarm clock anywhere that has, uh, you know, numbers lit up. We just use the regular battery-powered ones.